



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

Inventory Management Insider

From the Strategic National Stockpile

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The *Inventory Management Insider* Newsletter is produced by the CDC Division of Strategic National Stockpile and Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance. Send comments and suggestions to: ctshelp@cdc.gov.

Contents

Greetings.....	1
Now available! IMATS Version 1.8.0.....	2
IMATS Connect.....	4
Evaluate IMATS	4
Exercise Support	4
Did You Know?	5
Inventory Management Resources.....	5
Upcoming Conferences.....	5

Greetings,

Welcome to the ***Inventory Management Insider***! Continue reading for more information on the current IMATS release, IMATS Connect, how to evaluate IMATS at your jurisdiction, and more.

As always, we want to ***hear from you***. Help us learn how to improve our newsletter and provide you with needed information. Send an email to ctshelp@cdc.gov and tell us what you would like to see in the next issue of the ***Inventory Management Insider***.

SNS Inventory Management Technical Development Team

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Now available! IMATS Version 1.8.0

The Countermeasure Tracking Systems (CTS) team released IMATS version 1.8.0 on January 12, 2016.

The feedback we receive through ctshelp@cdc.gov from users is analyzed and considered for inclusion in each release of IMATS.

The following enhancements were incorporated in IMATS v1.8.0:

Table 1. IMATS Version 1.8.0 enhancements

Item	Details
Enhanced the Dashboard	<p>The dashboard has been updated to reflect the tasks that a person in a warehouse would perform. The following tabs have been created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Receipts: Receive items, edit purchase orders or requests for product. • Put Away: Mark items as put away, verify, print, or export put away lists. • Pick: Verify and edit lists for outgoing orders, create lists for product requests or delete items from lists. • Ship: Mark shipments as complete, edit shipments, print shipping documents or pallet labels.
Updated the Count Inventory Report Totals Section	<p>If the count inventory report is run for a single facility containing one storage location, the totals section no longer displays at the end of the report.</p> <p>Because the data in this section were the same as the data in the non-totals section, the numbers appeared to be duplicated, even though they were not.</p>
Push Package File Now Allows Whole Quantities	<p>The import file used in the Push Package Import feature now allows the Quantity field to contain whole numbers.</p> <p>Previously, the field could only contain numbers with two decimal places.</p>
Improved Printing of Multiple Pallet Labels	<p>Previously, when a user printed multiple pallet labels, the information did not print in the same location on each page.</p> <p>This has been improved so that the information now prints in the same place on each page.</p>
Combined Package Type and Package Size Fields	<p>To be in line with the current FDA format, the Package Type field and Package Size field have been combined to form a new field called Package Description.</p> <p>This field can be found in the products area of IMATS. The change also affects the layout of the files that are imported/exported into the application.</p>

The following bug fixes were incorporated into IMATS v1.8.0:

Table 2. IMATS Version 1.8.0 bug fixes

Item	Details
Removed Reference to Expiring Products Tab	<p>All references to the Expiring Products tab on the dashboard have been removed from the online help system.</p> <p>The tab is not one of the tabs that are listed on the dashboard.</p>
Importing of Improperly Formatted Push Package File	<p>Previously, when the 12-hour Push Package file was formatted incorrectly, the import button still displayed for the user to import the file.</p> <p>Clicking the button displayed a message stating the import was successful, even though no records were imported.</p> <p>This issue has been resolved so that the import button no longer displays when the file is improperly formatted.</p>
Facility Name in Inventory Data Export	<p>When the user exports inventory data for multiple facilities, the facility name and storage location are now included in each record.</p> <p>This makes it easier to identify the exact location of each inventory item.</p>
Facility Export/Import Issue when Facility Type is Modified	<p>An issue has been resolved that prevented some exported facilities from being imported into another environment.</p> <p>If a facility's Facility Type field was set to other but then later changed to another type, any data that had been previously entered in the other text box was not being cleared.</p> <p>The text box data was then included in the export process, which prevented the facility from being imported.</p>
Printed List Not Displaying All Items	<p>Previously, the print list button was displayed for pick lists with a status of closed, verified (meaning all of its items had been verified).</p> <p>Because verified items don't display on a printed pick list, the print list button has been removed for closed, verified lists.</p> <p>For all other lists, clicking the print list button displays the following message: "Only items that have not been verified will be displayed. All other items can be printed from the shipment".</p>
Supplier Field No Longer Required When Importing a File	<p>The Supplier field is no longer required when importing a file into IMATS. This is because the same field is no longer required in the Products area of the application.</p>

The CTS team continues to welcome your suggestions on ways to enhance IMATS for system users.

IMATS Connect

IMATS Connect is the version of IMATS software that will be available for state and local public health users to download, install, and maintain at their organizations. It is similar in function to IMATS but is not hosted at CDC and therefore does not require the same authentication process for access. Each state or local public health department deploying IMATS in this manner must assume responsibility for the enrollment process and security of both the IMATS application and the data contained in the IMATS database. Furthermore, each organization must agree to notify CDC they are using IMATS Connect and that they agree not to redistribute IMATS Connect without acknowledging the CDC origin of the software.

Here are a few frequently asked questions on IMATS Connect:

Is IMATS Connect available for users now?

No. We will notify IMATS users once IMATS Connect becomes available. The CTS team is currently working on documentation to support installation, which will include several installation scenarios (e.g., warehouse, state, or regional level options). These scenarios will include pros and cons to help you determine the best option for implementing IMATS Connect in your organization.

Does IMATS Connect upload and synchronize data with the CDC web-based version of IMATS?

No. For security reasons, data from IMATS Connect cannot be synchronized with the CDC-hosted IMATS. However, IMATS Connect will support data exchange with the CDC-hosted version. You may synchronize data between different instances of IMATS Connect within your jurisdiction.

We currently use the CDC-hosted version of IMATS as our primary inventory management system. If we want to switch to IMATS Connect (once available), can we move our data easily into IMATS Connect?

Yes. IMATS has an export feature that allows you to extract your data out of the CDC web-based IMATS and an import feature to import that extract into IMATS Connect. The CTS team can provide assistance with these activities if needed.

Evaluate IMATS

If your state, region, and/or locality is interested in conducting an evaluation of IMATS for potential adoption, please contact the CTS team. This evaluation will provide you with an opportunity to review all the inventory management features available in IMATS. For more details on how to get started using IMATS, please visit the [CDC IMATS web page](#).

Exercise Support

If you have an upcoming exercise that involves using IMATS, please let us know by sending an email to ctshelp@cdc.gov with the dates of your exercise and any relevant details. We will work with you to support your planning efforts. We will also ensure maintenance activities are not scheduled in conflict with your exercise dates. This is important for exercise scenarios running longer than 24 hours or extending past normal business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST).

Our team is constantly looking at ways to improve IMATS for our end users. Following the exercise, please let us know if you have any feedback on how IMATS performed and any enhancements we can make to the system to better support your inventory management and tracking needs.

Did You Know?

Custom Roles: In addition to the standard “public health administrator” and “facility administrator” roles available in IMATS, the system provides the option to create custom roles for your jurisdiction and/or facilities. For example, a custom role named “pick team” may be created with permissions to the pick and ship functions only. To add a custom role, go to Setup > Custom Role > Add Custom Role and enter the appropriate information for your new role.

Note: Your own user role determines which permissions can be assigned to the custom role. You can assign the same permissions you have or a subset of them, but you cannot assign permissions that are not assigned to your role.

Email ctshelp@cdc.gov for additional information.

Inventory Management Resources

- [SNS Website](#): CDC’s Strategic National Stockpile website
- [IMATS Web Page](#): Countermeasure Tracking Systems IMATS site

Upcoming Conferences

- [Preparedness Summit](#)
 - April 18-22, 2016
 - Dallas, TX
- [NACCHO Annual Conference](#)
 - July 19-21, 2016
 - Phoenix, AZ

If you have any questions about the information in this newsletter, please contact ctshelp@cdc.gov.



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